

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-01 L-03 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /032 W

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R 041654Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2941

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US, CVIS

SUBJ: US-USSR COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: VISA  
REQUESTS FOR SOVIET DELEGATIONS

REF: A) MOSCOW 10691 B) MOSCOW 10909

SUMMARY. HAVING PREVIOUSLY CONSULTED WITH EMB MOSCOW  
CONSULAR OFFICERS, SCIOFF, NOTED DURING MEETING AT SCST  
THAT LACK OF INFORMATION ON VISA REQUESTS FOR SOVIET  
DELEGATION TO THE US CAN CAUSE CLEARANCE PROBLEMS  
IN WASHINGTON AND CONSEQUENT DELAYS IN GRANTING  
OF VISAS. SOVIETS PROMISED TO LOOK INTO QUESTION.  
END SUMMARY.

1. DURING 30 JULY MEETING AT SCST (REFS A AND B),  
SCIOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY RAISED BY DISCUSSION OF  
DELEGATION EXCHANGES TO EXPLAIN TO SOVIETS HOW THEIR  
OWN VISA-REQUEST PRACTICES MIGHT BE CAUSING  
SOME OF THE DELAYS IN RECEIVING VISAS TO THE US.

2. FIRST DESCRIBING THE OVERALL SYSTEM, SCIOFF  
EXPLAINED THAT THE REQUESTS FOR VISAS TO THE US GO  
FIRST FROM THE USSR FONMIN TO THE US EMBASSY,  
WHENCE THE REQUEST IS RELAYED TO OFFICES IN WASHINGTON  
RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANTING VISAS. SCIOFF NOTED THAT  
THEY DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO SUBSTANTIVE OFFICES INVOLVED  
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IN THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS. IT IS THEN THE JOB OF  
SOMEONE IN OFFICERS THIS WASHINGTON OFFICE TO

CONTACT THE US HOSTS TO ASCERTAIN THAT ALL IS IN ORDER AND THAT THE DATES AND PLACES ARE CORRECT, SO THAT THE EMBASSY CAN BE AUTHORIZED TO GRANT THE VISA. THEN SCIOFF SHOWED SOVIETS COPY OF RECENT FONMIN VISA REQUEST FOR A GROUP OF SEVEN THAT WAS TO DO "RESEARCH ON SUPERCOOLING WITH AN AMERICAN GROUP UNDER A BI-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT." SCIOFF ASKED SOVIETS, IF THEY WERE IN WASHINGTON AND RECEIVED SUCH A REQUEST, WHO THEY WOULD CALL. SCIOFF STRESSED THAT HE WAS NEITHER CRITICIZING THIS PARTICULAR VISAS NOR GEERAL METHODS OF SEEKING VISAS, BUT HE WANTED SCST TO UNDERSTAND PROCESS AND HENCE WHY VISAS CAN BE DELAYED.

3. SOVIET REPLIED THAT THEY COULD CERTAINLY SEE HOW SUCH A VISA REQUEST, LET ALONE MANY SUCH, COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS AND DELAYS, BUT THEY SUGGESTED THAT THIS WAS A MATTER THE US SHOULD TAKE UP WITH THE FONMIN.

4. SCIOFF NOTED, CLEARLY TO THE SOVIETS' SURPRISE, THAT THE AMERICAN CONSUL HAS REPEATEDLY REMINDED THE FONMIN OF THIS NEED FOR INFORMATION, BUT THAT OUR CONSULAR OFFICIALS HERE ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS SITUATION IS DEFINITELY NOT IMPROVING. SCIOFF NOTED THAT SINCE SOVIET SIDE HAS ON OCCASION EXPRESSED DISMAY OVER "TARDY" VISAS, PERHAPS THE ENTIRE SOVIET SIDE OF THE CHAIN SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THIS NECESSITY FOR INFORMATION.

5. HAVING ALREADY CONSULTED WITH CONSULAR OFFICIALS, SCIOFF SUGGESTED THAT, AT ABSOLUTE MINIMUM, THE VISA REQUEST SHOULD GIVE THE GENERAL AREA OF COOPERATION AND, IF APPROPRIATE, THE SUB-PROJECT OR GROUP. EVEN BETTER WOULD BE INCLUDING AS WELL THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE HOSTINGUS INSTITUTION AND, IF APPROPRIATE, THE SPECIFIC US HOST.

6. SOVIETS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO SCIOFF AND AGREED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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TO TAKE MATTER TO DR. AYKAZYAN SO THAT SCST COULD TAKE "APPROPRIATE MEASURES" WITH FONMIN.

7. SCIOFF CLOSED BY COMMENTING THAT REASON FOR BRINGING SUBJECT UP WAS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING IS BEING DONE ON THIS SIDE OF ATLANTIC TO ENSURE SPEEDY COMMUNICATIONS AND BETTER COOPERATION, AND THAT, ALTHOUGH SCIOFF "KNOWS LITTLE ABOUT SOVIET PROCESS FOR GRANTING VISAS," PERHAPS "SOON" APPROPRIATE GROUP MIGHT DISCUSS PROBLEMS IN TIMING OF RECEIPT

OF SOVIET VISAS FOR AMERICAN DELEGATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, VISAS, MEETING DELEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MOSCOW10910  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750268-1230  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750885/aaaacxci.tel  
**Line Count:** 117  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MOSCOW 10691, 75 MOSCOW 10909  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <10 Jun 2003 by MorefiRH, INA>; RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>; RELEASED <02 Jul 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US-USSR COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: VISA REQUESTS FOR SOVIET DELEGATIONS  
**TAGS:** TGEN, CVIS, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006